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**Worksheet**  
**Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

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**OFFICE:** Kingman Field Office (KFO)

**NEPA DOCUMENT NUMBER:** DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2012-0009-DNA

**PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE:** Desert Bighorn Release into People's Canyon

**LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION:**

People's Canyon release site: T. 12N, R. 10W, sec. 3; Game Management Unit 16A on public land outside of wilderness.

**APPLICANT (if any):** Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD)

**A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures:**

In December 2011 AGFD proposes to release 20-30 bighorn sheep into historical and occupied habitat in the People's Canyon area of the Poachie Mountains. Bighorn occur in very low number in the Poachie Mountains. People's Canyon release site would be located along the road that leads to Hackberry Spring just north and west of People's Canyon at T. 12N, R. 10W, sec. 3, Game Management Unit 16A on public land outside of the Arrastra wilderness (Fig. 1). The exact location on the road depends on how far the transport truck can make it up the road. The road would be used as a staging area for personnel, equipment, and the release (Fig. 1). Equipment would include a transport truck with bighorn sheep boxes for holding and transfer of the sheep, and vehicles associated with capture personnel and volunteers. The capture and release would follow established AGFD protocols, including taking of blood samples for disease monitoring, and placement of satellite radio telemetry collars on up to 10 of the bighorn. These bighorn would be monitored for the life of the collars, which is approximately 2-2.5 years. Once the collars fall off they would be retrieved on foot by hiking to the collar's location. The bighorn sheep would be obtained from the Navajo Nation. The grazing permittee of the Santa Maria Ranch allotment and the Hualapai Nation would be notified of the release.

**Stipulations:** The following stipulations are mitigation measures from EA no. AZ-030-2001-0035, pgs. 28-30, to reduce environmental impacts, however, they are *not* applicable to the current Proposed Action. The four stipulations apply to the Hell's Half Acre, Poachie Mountain, and Ives Peak release sites and not the People's Canyon release site.

1. If utilization levels exceed 20% on Arizona cliffrose, Arizona Game and Fish Department will fence the two unfenced Arizona cliffrose populations located near Burro Creek.
2. If utilization exceeds 20% on Arizona cliffrose, or other new information leads to the determination that desert bighorn are likely to adversely affect Arizona cliffrose, BLM will initiate formal consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the Arizona cliffrose.

3. The Poachie Mountain release site, located in wilderness at Cattail Spring will be used rather than the alternate site at Arrowweed Spring outside of wilderness. Personnel handling bighorn sheep will walk into and out of the release site. A helicopter will fly over wilderness to bring in transport boxes with bighorn.
4. The Ives Peak release site, within wilderness, will not be used as part of this program.

## **B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

LUP Name: *Kingman Resource Management Plan/EIS*

Date Approved: March 1995

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

WL 15/I            Encourage big game expansion into historical use areas.

This proposal is in conformance with the Kingman Resource Management Plan (BLM 1995). The RMP provides for management of wildlife habitat to encourage big game expansion (BLM 1995, RMP pg. 51). It specifically states that "...management of wildlife habitat to encourage big game expansion into historical use areas would be developed through activity plans (Habitat Management Plans) with public involvement (BLM 1995, RMP pg. 51)." Habitat management plans (HMPs) covering the project area were incorporated by reference into the Kingman RMP. The Kingman RMP was analyzed through an environmental impact statement which included extensive public involvement.

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

## **C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

Programmatic Environmental Assessment # AZ-030-2001-0035, for the Reintroduction and Supplemental Releases of Desert Bighorn Sheep in Mohave, Yavapai, Coconino, and La Paz Counties, March 2003

Biological Evaluation for the Reintroduction and Supplemental Releases of Desert Bighorn Sheep in Mohave, Yavapai, Coconino, and La Paz Counties, March 13, 2001, Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Field Office.

Informal Consultation Response to the Biological Evaluation for the Reintroduction and Supplemental Releases of Desert Bighorn Sheep in Mohave, Yavapai, Coconino, and La Paz Counties, March 13, 2001. Fish and Wildlife Service dated December 12, 2001; AESO/SE 2-21-01-I-242.

## **D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes. The proposed action is essentially the same. The release site is in the same area as the original site. If the road is bad the release may happen at a different

spot on the road but still outside of the wilderness. The release actions are the same as described in EA no. AZ-030-2001-0035. Monitoring of the bighorn would be done through satellite uplink and not through ground and aircraft telemetry as originally planned. Impacts from monitoring would be less than described in the environmental assessment impacts section as no aircraft would fly over wilderness to conduct telemetry monitoring.

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes, the alternatives analyzed are appropriate.

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes, there is no new information or circumstances that would substantially change the analysis. There are no new listed species. The sensitive species list has changed however no new sensitive species are found within the project area. Migratory birds would not be affected by the proposed action as no habitat disturbing actions would take place and the release would occur outside of the breeding seasons.

**4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes. The effects of the proposed action have not changed. The proposed action is the same as the action that was analyzed in EA no. AZ-030-2001-0035.

**5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?**

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes, over 500 publics were given the opportunity to review the existing NEPA documents.

**E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource/Agency Represented</u>
Jeff Pebworth	Wildlife Program Manager	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Len Marceau	Outdoor Recreation Planner	BLM
Mike Blanton	Range Management Specialist	BLM
Tim Watkins	Archaeologist	BLM
Chad Benson	Wild Horse and Burros	BLM
Ramone McCoy	Wilderness	BLM

## **Conclusion**

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Rebecca Peck\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Project Lead  
Rebecca Peck

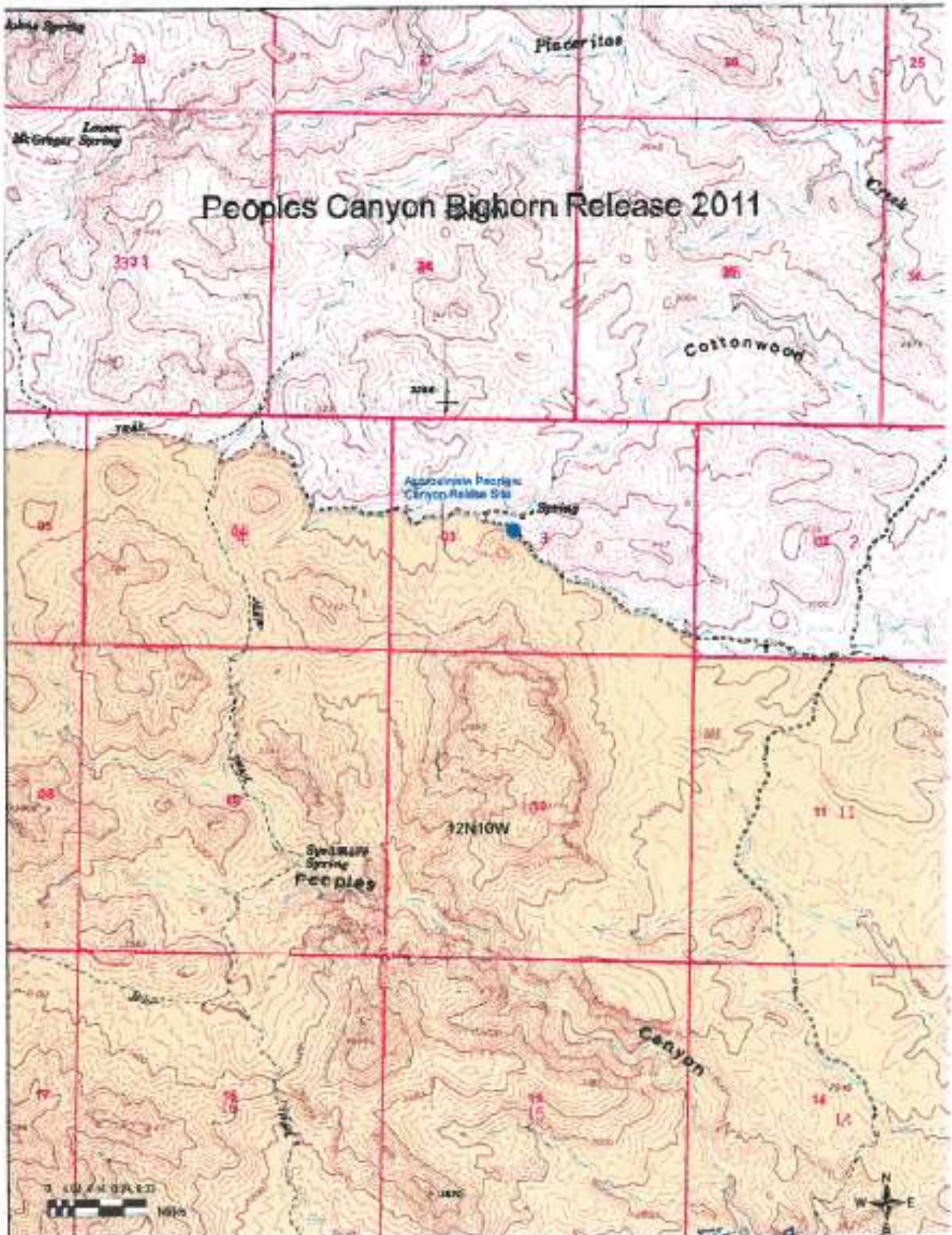
\_\_\_\_11/10/2011\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Don McClure\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of NEPA Coordinator  
Don McClure

\_\_\_\_11/10/2011\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Don McClure *for*\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Responsible Official  
Ruben Sanchez  
Field Manager  
Kingman Field Office

\_\_\_\_11/15/2011\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Field Office  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**NEPA Document Number:** DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2012-0009-DNA

Finding of No Significant Impact: Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

/s/ Don McClure for  
Ruben Sanchez  
Field Manager, Kingman Field Office

11/15/2011  
Date



## DECISION RECORD

**NEPA Document Number:** DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2012-0009-DNA

**Description of the Proposed Action:** In December 2011 AGFD proposes to release 20-30 bighorn sheep into historic, occupied habitat in the People's Canyon area of the Poachie Mountains. Bighorn occur in very low number in the Poachie Mountains. People's Canyon release site would be located along the road that leads to Hackberry Spring just north and west of People's Canyon at T. 12N, R. 10W, sec. 3, Game Management Unit 16A on public land outside of the Arrastra wilderness (Fig. 1). The exact location on the road depends on how far the transport truck can make it up the road. The road would be used as a staging area for personnel, equipment, and the release (Fig. 1). Equipment would include a transport truck with bighorn sheep boxes for holding and transfer of the sheep, and vehicles associated with capture personnel and volunteers. The capture and release would follow established AGFD protocols, including taking of blood samples for disease monitoring, and placement of satellite radio telemetry collars on up to 10 of the bighorn. These bighorn would be monitored for the life of the collars, which is approximately 2-2.5 years. Once the collars fall off they would be retrieved on foot by hiking to the collar's location. The bighorn sheep would be obtained from the Navajo Nation. The grazing permittee of the Santa Maria Ranch allotment and the Hualapai Nation would be notified of the release.

The grazing permittee of the Santa Maria Ranch allotment would be notified of the release.

**LUP Name:** *Kingman Resource Management Plan/EIS* Approved: March 1995

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached Determination of NEPA Adequacy and as analyzed in the previous environmental assessment "*Programmatic Environmental Assessment # AZ-030-2001-0035, for the Reintroduction and Supplemental Releases of Desert Bighorn Sheep in Mohave, Yavapai, Coconino, and La Paz Counties, March 2003*" I have determined that the action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

It is my decision to approve the action as proposed.

/s/ Don McClure for  
Signature of the Responsible Official  
Ruben Sanchez  
Field Manager  
Kingman Field Office

11/15/2011  
Date

**Exhibits:** Figure 1

**Stipulations:** None

The map shows a topographic representation of a region in Arizona. It features a grid of red lines representing township and range boundaries. The townships are labeled as 13N10W and 12N10W. The range is labeled as 10E. The map includes contour lines indicating elevation. Key locations marked include Cottonwood, American Indian Canyon, and several springs: Indian Spring, McCreary Spring, and Spring. A blue dot is located near the center of the map, marking the location of the American Indian Canyon National Monument. The map also shows a road and a river.